



U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., is one of 121 congressmen supporting a bill that would allow gays to serve openly in the armed forces.

100 rating for gay-supportive positions from the Human Rights Campaign in its scorecard for the 108th Congress.

CARE Act Moves Forward in House

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce passed a bill Sept. 20 to reauthorize the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act. The program provides critical care and treatment to more than half a million low-income Americans with HIV and AIDS.

First passed in 1990, the CARE Act has enjoyed wide bipartisan support from Congress and the administration as a tool to address the gaps left by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and other publicly financed health care systems. It is the largest source of federal funding devoted exclusively to the treatment and care of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The program's authorization expired Sept. 30, 2005. Funding to provide services to HIV-positive individuals has continued through the current fiscal year, but failure to renew the act by Oct. 1 would jeopardize continuity of funding for many Ryan White programs.

"With today's action, Congress can now move quickly to pass this must-do legislation. It is a vital lifeline of services and support for people living with HIV/AIDS all over the country," said Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign president.

The group remains deeply concerned about the inadequate funding authorizations in the bill and the failure of Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to offset potential losses for communities such as New York and San Francisco. "Congress must increase funding for the CARE Act so that no community's system of care is destabilized. Reauthorization should not result in winners and losers," added Solmonese.

HRC singled out for praise the leadership and hard work of Sens. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Reps. Joe Barton, R-Texas, and John Dingell, D-Mich., and their staff who worked in a bipartisan, bicameral process to create a compromise bill.

The bill now goes to the full Senate and House for their approval before it can go to President Bush's desk for his signature.

NEW YORK

Psychiatrists to Honor Gay Advocates

The Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists (AGLP) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) will honor Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny on Oct. 7 in New York. During the past year, AGLP successfully raised \$50,000 to endow the John E. Fryer Award

for a public figure who has made significant contributions to queer mental health.

Fryer was known as "Dr. H. Anonymous" when he gave a courageous speech at the 1972 American Psychiatric Association annual meeting, an important spur in the process leading to the declassification of homosexuality as a mental illness. Gittings and Kameny were on the same panel as Fryer in 1972 and will be the first recipients of this award.

Kameny and Gittings are lifelong activists and founding members of the modern gay rights movement. Both were instrumental in raising issues that eventually led APA to remove homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in 1973.

Kameny had a Ph.D. in astronomy and was fired from a U.S. civil service position in 1957 when it was discovered that he was gay. He was barred from future government employment. In 1961 he was one of the founders of the Mattachine Society, a group organized in Washington, D.C., to support gay and lesbian civil rights.

In 1958 Gittings established the first East Coast chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian civil rights organization in the United States. In the mid-1960s she edited its national magazine, *The Ladder: A Lesbian Review*.

Both Gittings and Kameny were openly gay at a time when sodomy laws made homosexuality illegal in all of the United States.

OHIO

Out in America Celebrates Gay History Month

Out in America, a city-by-city online destination for queer adults, celebrates Gay History Month this month in partnership with Philadelphia-based Equality Forum.

The Ohio-based Web entity will be home to a series of 31 video shorts highlighting and celebrating the leaders who have made gay history. A new short will be introduced every day for the entire month.

"It is our duty to remind people where they came from," says CEO Jared Hunnell, "so they will know where they are going."

The series will highlight famous leaders such as Ellen DeGeneres and Martina Navratilova and will introduce some who might not be as well-known to the public.

"Celebrating Gay History Month will show young people who we are as a community," says COO Michael Reese. "This demonstrates our mission as a company to always give back."

Along with the video shorts, Out in America will introduce a detailed timeline of queer history from 12,000 B.C. to the present day. This timeline will demonstrate the impact and influence of the sexual minorities community since the dawn of civilization.

The Out in America print division reaches more than 100,000 readers every month with its award-winning publication. Its 178 city sites span from New York to Los Angeles as well as across Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom, all of which are collectively frequented by millions of visitors monthly, making it the largest city-based queer media network in the United States. For more information visit www.outinamerica.com or www.glbthistorymonth.com. 

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